

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8261

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E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: CHAMBERLAIN VISIT TO SAO TOME

1. CHAMBERLAIN RETURNED LIBREVILLE LATE SEPTEMBER 3 AFTER SEVEN-DAY VISIT EXPLORING POSSIBLE AID ASSISTANCE TO GSTP. CHAMBERLAIN, WHO WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY DCM DEJARNETTE, HAD TWO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH PRIMIN(AND COORDINATOR OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE) MIGUEL TROVOADA AND WITH DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COORDINATION TORRES AND MET WITH OFFICIALS OF AGMIN INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF AG SERVICES DA COSTA (YOUNGER BROTHER OF PRESIDENT PINTO DA COSTA). IN ADDITION, CHAMBERLAIN ABLE TO VISIT SEVERAL TRADITIONAL FARM OPERATIONS (ROCAS) AND TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP AG EXPERTS.

2. BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSES OF STATISTICS AND STUDIES FURNISHED BY SGTP AND UNDP, CHAMBERLAIN PREPARING SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESENT AID/W UPON RETURN SEPTEMBER8. RECOMMENDATIONS COVER IMMEDIATE PROGRAMMING OF DOLS 112,000 GRANT AND SETTING PARAMETERS FOR VOL AG PROJECTS IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS. PRIMARY FOCUS OF CHAMBERLAINS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE IMPLIMENTATION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION AIMED AT IMPROVING EXISTING LOW NUTRITION LEVELS, PROVIDING MORE JOBS, AND REDUCING CURRENT DRAIN OF COUNTRY'S SCARCE FOEIGN EXCHANGE FOR FOOD IMPORTS.

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3. AMBASSADOR HAS REVIEWED CHAMBERLAINS PROPOSALS AND

ENTIRELY SUPPORTS PRIMARY OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. SAO TOME IN CRUCIAL STAGE OF STRUGGLE TO LAY BASE FOR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO FUTURE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY. OUTSIDE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO ACHIEVING SGTP ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES. US ASSISTANCE NOW HAS DOUBLE ADVANTAGE COMING AT TIME OF GREATEST NEED AND PRODUCING GREATEST ECONOMIC IMPACT. SUCCESSFUL US AID PROGRAM WOULD ALSO ESTABLISH BASIS FOR IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GSTP AND SERVE AS EXAMPLE OF POLITICALLY DISINTERESTED US SUPPORT WITHIN LUSOPHONE-AFRICAN BLOC.

4. SINCE US HAS BEEN EMBARRASSINGLY LONG IN TAKING FIRST STEPS FOR ASSISTANCE IN REPLY TO REQUESTS FROM GSTP MADE TWELVE MONTHS AGO, HOPE AF WILL LEND SUPPORT TO AID RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROMPT ASSISTANCE FOR STP. STEIGMAN

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